

Notic of Allowability

Application No.

10/647,870

Examiner

Wasseem H Hamdan

Applicant(s)

YOKOYAMA ET AL.

Art Unit

2854

pm

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to filing & IDS on 08/25/03, IDS on 1/20/04, and Examiner's Amendment on 4/30/04.

2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-35.

3. ☐ The drawings filed on _____ are accepted by the Examiner.

4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:

1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

6. ☒ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.

(a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached

1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.

(b) ☒ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date 04/30/04.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 8/25/03, 1/20/04

4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material

5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.

7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment

8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

9. ☐ Other _____.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Michael T. Gabrik (Registration No. 32,896) on 04/30/2004.

The application has been amended as follows:

- a. **Claims:** claim 36 has been cancelled.
- b. **Drawings:** The following changes to the drawings have been approved by the examiner and agreed upon by applicant:
 - i. FIG. 1, the descriptive legend – OS – has been inserted in box No. 41d,
and
 - ii. FIG. 3, the descriptive legend – CONTROLLER – has been inserted in
box number 140.

In order to avoid abandonment of the application, applicant must make these above agreed upon drawing changes.

Examiner's Statement Of Reason For Allowance

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance

Claims 1-35 are allowed.

Regarding claim 1, the prior art of record does not teach all the combined steps for a printing method for processing print data generated by a host computer, including the step of laying out multiple copies of the selected unit image in a selected layout pattern;

selecting a filter for delineating an image area of the selected layout pattern or each copy in the layout pattern; and

filtering the selected layout pattern or each copy in the layout pattern using the selected filter to determine where the copies of the selected unit image are to be printed to produce the background image data.

Regarding claim 10, the prior art of record does not teach all the combined components and or elements for a computer-readable medium embodying a printing program for processing print data, including the instructions for laying out multiple copies of the selected unit image in a selected layout pattern;

instructions for selecting a filter for delineating an image area of the selected layout pattern or each copy in the layout pattern;

instructions for filtering the selected layout pattern or each copy in the layout pattern using the selected filter to determine where the copies of the selected unit image are to be printed to produce the background image data.

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Regarding claim 19, the prior art of record does not teach all the combined components and or elements for a printing apparatus for processing print data generated by a host computer, including a layout module configured to lay out multiple copies of the selected unit image in a selected layout pattern,

a filter selection module configured to select a filter for delineating an image area of the selected layout pattern or each copy in the layout pattern, and
a filtering module configured to apply the selected filter to the selected layout pattern or each copy in the layout pattern to determine where the copies of the selected unit image are to be printed to produce the background image data.

Regarding claim 32, the prior art of record does not teach all the combined components and or elements for a printer driver to be used in a host computer connected to a printing apparatus, including a layout module configured to lay out multiple copies of the selected unit image in a selected layout pattern,

a filter selection module configured to select a filter for delineating an image area of the selected layout pattern or each copy in the layout pattern,

a filtering module configured to apply the selected filter to the selected layout pattern or each copy in the layout pattern to determine where the copies of the selected unit image are to be printed to produce the background image data.

Regarding claim 33, the prior art of record does not teach all the combined components and or elements for a POS terminal, including a layout module configured to lay out multiple copies of the selected unit image in a selected layout pattern,

a filter selection module configured to select a filter for delineating the image area of the selected layout pattern or each copy in the layout pattern, and

a filtering module configured to apply the selected filter to the selected layout pattern or each copy in the layout pattern to determine where the copies of the selected unit image are to be printed to produce the background image data.

Regarding claim 35, the prior art of record does not teach all the combined components and or elements for a POS terminal, including a layout module configured to lay out multiple copies of the selected unit image in a selected layout pattern,

a filter selection module configured to select a filter for delineating the image area of the selected layout pattern or each copy in the layout pattern, and

a filtering module configured to apply the selected filter to the selected layout pattern or each copy in the layout pattern to determine where the copies of the selected unit image are to be printed to produce the background image data.

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The prior art of record does not teach all the combined steps and components / elements as discussed above in the "examiner's statement of reasons for allowance".


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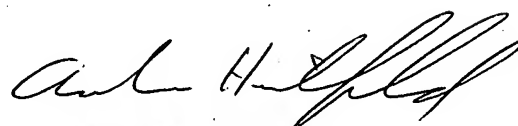
Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Wasseem H Hamdan whose telephone number is (571) 272-2166. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (first Friday off) 6:30 AM- 4:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew H Hirshfeld can be reached on (571) 272-2168. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Wasseem Hamdan
April 30, 2004


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